



# National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

## *St. Paul Port Authority, MN*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### OVERVIEW

EPA has selected the St. Paul Port Authority as a Brownfields Pilot. Historically, the City of St. Paul's industrial development evolved from its location as both a navigation hub on the Mississippi River and railroad center. No longer dependent on railroads or shipping, facilities moving into the St. Paul area are locating in areas outside the urban core.

The City of St. Paul has 4,000 acres of land zoned for industrial use, but nearly 1,000 of these acres are under-used or abandoned. Redevelopment of industrial property needed to maintain the city's tax base, increase employment opportunities, and attract suitable industrial facilities has been limited due to either known or suspected contamination. In addition to the health issues associated with potential contamination, many sites in the urban core have deteriorating structures that attract illegal activities, such as drug trafficking and vagrancy. Such conditions foster further disinvestment in the inner city and investment in undeveloped suburban greenfields, perpetuating a cycle of urban core decline and suburban sprawl.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*St. Paul Port Authority,  
Minnesota*

**Date of Award:**  
April 1997

**Amount:** \$146,000

**Site Profile:** The brownfields pilot will focus on up to six sites of under-used and abandoned industrial sites.

### Contacts:

Lorrie Louder  
St. Paul Port Authority  
(612) 224-5686

Mary Beth Tuohy  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
(312) 886-7596  
tuohy.marybeth@  
epamail.epa.gov

Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

## OBJECTIVES

The goals of the St. Paul Port Authority are to optimize the reuse of abandoned and under-used industrial sites within the City of St. Paul, create increased employment opportunities for local residents, and generate sufficient tax revenues to provide services needed for long-term, ecologically sound, industrial growth. The Port Authority will partner with neighborhood organizations to gain support for redevelopment projects and workforce development. The initial work will focus on up to six sites targeted for redevelopment.

## ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Working with neighborhood organizations to identify up to six target brownfields sites for redevelopment;
- Conducting site assessments at up to six brownfields sites;
- Preparing and publishing reports on the results of the site assessments;
- Preparing response action or cleanup plans for one to three targeted sites; and
- Partner with neighborhood organizations to establish a workforce development plan.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.